

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, FAO

SUBJECT: FAO: CANDIDACY OF FRANCISCO AQUINO FOR FAO

DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. DURING CALL TODAY BY ECON/COMM COUNSELOR AND EMBOFF ON MFA ECONOMIC COORDINATION DIRGEN MALIK, THE LATTER RAISED THE SUBJECT OF FRANCISCO AQUINO'S (URUGUAY) CANDIDACY FOR THE FAO DIRGEN JOB. THE POSITION COMES UP FOR ELECTON NEXT NOVEMBER.

2. MALIK SAID THAT THE GOP FACED SOMETHING OF A DILEMMA ON THIS SUBJECT. AT THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR LAST APRIL, PAKISTAN AGREED TO THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LEBANESE CANDIDATE, EDOUARD DAOUMA. ON ACCOUNT OF THIS ACTION, PAKISTAN WAS DUTY BOUND TO SUPPORT SAOUMA'S CANDIDACY, AT LEAST INITIALLY. MANY IN THE GOP PRIVATELY BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT QUINO HAS STRONGER QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE JOB AND WOULD PREFER TO SEE HIM WIN IT.

3. MALIK SAID THAT WHEN AQUINO WAS IN PAKISTAN IN EARLY DECEMBER, ON WORLD FOOD PROGRAM BUSINESS, HE MADE EFFECTIVE
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REPRESENTATIONS FOR HIS CANDIDACY WITH GOP OFFICIALS INCLUD-

ING PRIMEMIN BHUTTO. AQUINO CLAIMED TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF NOT ONLY ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BUT ALSO WEST GERMANY AND OTHERS. SUBSEQUENTLY THE GOP HAS HEARD THAT JAPAN AND IRAN ARE ALSO LIKELY TO SUPPORT HIM. ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS ADVANCED BY AQUINO WAS THAT SAOUMA DID NOT HAVE THE VOTES TO WIN AND STOOD NO CHANCE OF EVER GETTING THE POSITION. ANOTHER POINT HE MADE WAS THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES NOW HELD NO TOP POSITION IN ANY UN AGENCY AND THEREFORE HAD STRONG RIGHTS TO THIS JOB.

4. THE GOP WAS UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT THE US POSITION ON THE FAO DIRGEN JOB MIGHT BE.

5. REQUEYN. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION ON THE US POSITION ON AQUINO, SAOUMA, AND THE FAO JOB WHICH WE COULD SHARE WITH THE PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTRY.
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